THE WOMAN'S

DREADNOUGHT

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MUNITIONS ACT MUDDLES: Controlling the Workers

A woman engaged at Groom's factory, Dodd Street, Burdett Road, Limehouse, in making military tents, earned from 23s. to 24s. a week. She and other women who earned more than £1 a week were at first paid a bonus of 2s. a week, but when the last Budget was introduced the bonus was stopped. After a time this woman was told that instead of making tents she must make men's white suits. She was paid 3½d. each for making the coats and 4d. for the trousers. She could make four coats and four pairs of trousers a day, and she had to pay 5d. per ball of thread, which lasted her a day. This meant that her net takings per day were about 2s. 2d. As a matter of fact, she earned only 11s. 11d. a week.

Not being able to live on this miserable pittance, she left the factory, and applied for work to the Metropolitan Munition Committee at Park Royal, Acton. She was told at Park Royal that employment would be given to her, but that under the Munitions Act she could not be engaged unless her late employer would release her. The manager at Park Royal telephoned to Groom's factory to ask for permission to employ her, but Grooms refused to consent, as they had work for the woman to do.

The woman then applied to us for advice, whereupon we telephoned to the Munitions Office. We urged that discharge certificates are not required by women employed in the clothing industry, but though it was admitted that Groom's is not a "controlled" factory, the officials at the Munitions Office stated that the question as to whether a discharge certificate is or is not required in any given case is so complicated that no definite answer could be given, although we furnished all the foregoing facts. It was stated that when in doubt an employer generally refuses to give employment, as if he makes a mistake he is liable to a fine of £50. We asked what authority is in a position to solve the problem, but could get no reply, except that the Munitions Tribunal "has nothing to do with it," which appeared to us to be a most astounding statement, and not in accordance with the memoranda issued by the Ministry.

However, we obtained for the would-be munition worker the promise of an interview if she presented herself at the Munitions Office, and later received the following letter from the Munitions Office:—

Dear Madam,—With reference to your letter of to-day's date, and my interview with Miss ——, I have to call your attention to the two Orders of the Minister set out in Appendix 2 of the enclosed Memorandum M.M.16, of which copies have already been sent to you under another cover. The provisions of the Munitions of War Acts as to leaving certificates apply only to workpeople employed in establishments belonging to one or other of the classes set out in these Orders. Accordingly, if Miss —— has not been employed in such an establishment, she does not require a leaving certificate in order to enable her to take work elsewhere. If she finds it difficult to get employment without a certificate, she might, perhaps, make application to a Tribunal in accordance with Paragraph 6 of the Memorandum, but I think it doubtful whether a Tribunal has jurisdiction in cases where the applicant is not employed in an establishment falling within the

TWO DANISH VOTERS

Minister's Orders. Assuming that Miss ——, was not employed in such an establishment, the question whether her work was munitions work is not relevant so far as the leaving certificates' provisions are concerned. If Miss —— finds further difficulty in obtaining employment, she may show this letter to the employer wishing to engage her, and it may be regarded for the purpose as an official letter.

Appendix II. referred to in this letter includes under munition work the manufacture or repair of arms, ammunition, ships, vessels, vehicles, aircraft, metals, machines, tools, buildings, docks, harbours, the supply of light, heat, water, or power, or the supply of tramway facilities, fire engines, etc., if the Board of Trade or the Ministry of Munitions declares that these are necessary to the prosecution of the War or in the national interest.

It is clear that any and every trade may be put under the Munitions Act if the Government wishes it. Still, as the regulations stand, clothing is one of the few industries which appear at present to escape. But, as we pointed out to the officials at the Munitions Office, Groom's have difficulty in obtaining skilled sewing machinists at the sweated wage of 11s. a week, and, therefore, they are bluffing. The Munitions Act is put to strange uses. Can this particular one be legal?

. . . . . .

A correspondent writes:—"I have a daughter working on munition work at No. 11 Filling Factory, Abbey Wood. She has to leave her home every morning at 6 a.m., to get to work by 8 a.m., and she must not leave off work till 8 p.m., which means that she can't catch any train till 8.45 p.m., and arrives home dead tired at 10.15 p.m. A train leaves Abbey Wood at 10 minutes past 8 every night, and the girls, many of whom are very young, have asked permission to leave off work at a quarter to 8, so as to catch that train and get home at 9 p.m. instead of after 10, for most of them live in London. The girls are willing to start work a quarter of an hour earlier so as not to lose any time, but the management refuse to allow it."

Such scandalously long hours must inevitably lead to the complete breakdown of the workers. The Health of Munition Workers' Committee has been appointed with great bombast, but without result. The principal lady inspector, in a special report, says the introduction of women has been often accompanied by a striking degree of solicitude by managers for their welfare and comfort.

We are sorry to say that this seems to us to be mere hypocrisy.

GOVERNMENT SWEATING

On Sunday, July 2nd, a protest mass meeting was held by the temporary postmen and postwomen at Terry's Cinema, Strand, W.C. Startling disclosures were made by Mr. Stuart Bunning about both men's and women's wages. The pay of temporary postmen is 28s. a week and 3s. War bonus, temporary women usually 15s. and 16s., so that the case quoted of the prosecution of a postwoman, a widow with two children, earning 15s. a week in London, for opening a registered letter, was not astonishing; some women get 26s. and 27s. 6d. In Staffordshire, two women were taken on to replace one man getting 29s. Their pay is 7s. 6d., so that the P.O. makes 14s. on the transaction. In Northumberland, a widow with two children, paid 8s. 6d., now gets 12s. 6d., through agitation by the Union, and in Ayr postwomen receive 5½d. per hour—rate for charwomen in that town is a farthing more! Postwomen on the whole are paid from 3½d. to 5d. and 6d. when on time rate.

NO FURTHER HOSPITALITY!

Allied subjects of military age are obliged to report themselves under the Military Service Act, either for service in the British Army or that of their respective countries.

* * * *

FROM A RUSSIAN EXILE.

To the ruling classes of England, as to that of other countries, the sacrifices which the people have offered on the altar of the War are not sufficient: they have decided to uproot everything which means progress. Military compulsion has taken away the liberties for which the working classes paid a high price. And, alas, in spite of the preaching of many years, the watchword, "Workers of the world unite," which was accepted at many international congresses, has been thrust aside. The diplomats had but to declare war, for false leaders of the workers to substitute the cry: "To arms! Leave those you love, and, without murmuring, kill the comrades with whom but yesterday you were shaking hands; kill them mercilessly, for they are your enemies. Defend your employers, and leave it to us to befog your intellects!"

The reptile Press, which knows well that, to the employers, there is no difference between the British and the foreign worker, has now raised an outcry against foreigners, asserting that they are robbing the English of their livelihood, and demanding that they shall either be turned into soldiers or sent back to the countries from which they came.

Who are these foreigners that are supposed to have come here in order to take the bread out of the mouths of the English workers? I am one of them. I was born under the despotism of the Russian Czar. In my childhood I learnt that the mass of the Russian people, living a poverty-stricken existence in miserable huts, are obliged to maintain the ruling classes, as well as their defenders, a whole army of Cossacks and police. I early joined hands with those who had declared war on the existing order of things.

Who has not abhorred the bloody and oppressive deeds of Nicholas II., now proclaimed liberator and protector of down-trodden nationalities? At his bidding were organised bloody "pogroms" against the weak and subject races, the Jews, Armenians, and others. The Cossacks then slit open pregnant Jewish women, threw children out of top-storey windows, violated young girls before the eyes of their horrified parents, and hammered nails into the skulls of old men. The entire world heard with indignation the news of the shooting down, on January 9th, 1905, of a peaceable crowd which was going to petition the Czar. When the streets of St. Petersburg rang with the shots that were mowing down the people who were marching with the holy images, headed by the priest Gapon, a great feast was taking place in the palace of the Czar.

At the news of the St. Petersburg outrage the red flag of revolt was raised in Russia. Terrified by the outburst of popular anger, the Czar went for help to the Kaiser. The latter did not fail to oblige his friend, for on the Polish frontier was stationed the German army, ready to drown the Russian Revolution in blood, in case the troops of the Czar should not prove strong enough to subdue the people. Nicholas would have rendered similar help to William had there been a revolution in Germany.

Throughout Russia were heard the cries of suffering and despair; villages were burnt down, thousands were killed, and hundreds of thousands imprisoned. I happened to be among the latter. The flogging of prisoners was an everyday occurrence; even now the blood freezes in my veins when I think of the tortures inflicted on the girl prisoners, of how they were stripped naked and given over to the lust of their tormentors. Some of the survivors are still in the hands of their persecutors. But the recent executions of the workers in Kpstroma and in Ivanoff Vosnessensk show that, even to-day, the proletariat has not lowered the flag of revolt against oppression.

Having spent many years in prison, I was at last sent to Siberia. In convict's clothes I was taken to a village a thousand versts away from any place where one could earn a living, and where the inhabitants themselves were nearly starving. I managed to tramp to the railway line, and, after many adventures and narrow escapes, I succeeded in reaching England, where I received the hospitality of English workers, who had gained for themselves comparative political freedom.

There are many who, like myself, have escaped here from Russian despotism. From the moment of our arrival, capitalism transforms us into automata, and, creating wealth for others, we have continued to live hard and unenviable lives. But now we must either be soldiers or return to persecution. I, personally, shall resist all attempts to turn me into a murderer. My class-consciousness, my internationalism, my ideals, I shall defend, and to my last breath I shall stand by those German, French, Russian, English and other workers, who, in spite of all threats and persecutions, jealously guard the international flag of the proletariat.

FACTORY INSPECTOR'S REPORT

The Annual Report of the Chief Inspector of Factories and Workshops shows that since the War began the number of women employed has increased in every department of industry, especially in "engineering and allied trades covering munitions," where there are 200,000. Miss Anderson, the principal Lady Inspector, says, "Women inspectors have been trying to keep pace with the necessary inspection" of the new factories in which women are employed, and that 50 per cent. increase has been made in the staff of women inspectors. The inspectors recommend the employment of three eight-hour shifts, but Miss Anderson reports that the twelve-hour shift day and night is "by far the most widely prevalent." Miss Constance Smith, an assistant inspector, states that long night work "shows" at once on very young girls, whilst the effect on adults is less marked. But, she says, "they most willingly bear all their share of these war burdens." This attitude does not seem to us the correct one for any inspector to adopt: it is the duty of the inspector to be ever critically alert and vigilant in protecting the workers from injurious conditions.

Miss Anderson expresses surprise that "the manufacture of munitions of war on a terrible scale" has induced the authorities to introduce "supervision of women by women in factories, provision of means of personal cleanliness, proper meal and rest rooms, and qualified nurses."

Factory inspectors should surely expect no less than that new establishments should be started under proper conditions, but, unfortunately, these conditions are still the exception rather than the rule.

Give this paper to a friend.

"The evidence from the States in which women have voted goes to prove that with the ballot women are more fairly treated under the law, the working woman is better protected, and social and moral improvement is accelerated."—EDISON, the great inventor.

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Bravely and willingly we bear our share of the World's burdens. Why, then, deny us the right to Vote, which would dignify our labour and increase our Power of Service?

THE BIRTH-RATE

"SHE could have done without *you*," said the old Scotch woman, nursing her five-days-old grandson, and adding, with a touch of pity: "It's a hard world for you to come into." The baby's sad-eyed mother, lying on the bed beside them, is only 22. Her husband has been in Claybury Asylum for several months. Before the War he kept a fish stall, but two years ago next August he went into the gun factory, and worked on without a holiday for alternating periods of day and night, seven days a week, from 7 a.m. to 8 p.m., and six nights from 6 p.m. to 7 a.m. He was on night shift at one time for five months. Then, all of a sudden, he became ill. At first the doctor thought that he had influenza, but within five days it was seen that he was insane. He had broken down through long-continued overwork. Such cases are not uncommon now. The young wife has only her husband's National Insurance benefit of 10s. a week and the sum of 30s. maternity benefit. She has a little girl of two years old as well as the baby boy.

The wan-faced mother looked at her frail little baby, and stroked its thin legs and tiny, claw-like hands. "They are like poor little birds. And they are not wanted," she said, and clasped the infant closer in an impulse of pitying love. The husband has an abscess in the head, and has grown so deaf that he can with difficulty get employment. The saw mill where he works has been slack since the War. When he is working full time he is paid 28s. a week. He gives his entire wage to his wife, and she gives him back 9d. or 1s. during the week. They have three little girls under twelve years as well as the baby. Rent costs 7s. a week, insurance 1s., coal 11½d., three four-penny loaves a day adds another 7s., a quarter of a pound of margarine a day at 8d. per lb. is 1s. 2d. a week, half a pound of tea a week 1s. 2d., milk 7d. a week (a miserably small quantity for three young children), soda and soap 4½d., matches 1½d., flour 5d., gas 1s. 3d., two pounds of sugar (a very poor allowance) 11½d. Dinners consist, where possible, of "pieces" of meat at 1s. 2d. a pound, and with greens and potatoes cost 1s. a day, if the money is forthcoming. Some of the dinner is saved for the husband's supper. The husband's dinners, which he takes with him, costs 3d. a day, and consist of bread and cheese or German sausage; 6d. a week is put in a club towards buying the children's clothes. As for the mother's clothes, she cannot afford any unless she works to earn more money, and this she has not been able to do for the last year. The mother buys no fruit, fresh or dried, no jam, no rice, lentils, or beans for her family; yet the budget has already mounted up to more than 28s. It is made to balance by cutting down the food allowance on the latter days of the week.

The maternity benefit is usually paid the Saturday following the birth of the child; the insured person is not allowed to have it until the child has actually come into the world. But in this case the husband's card was not stamped up to date, and so there has been some delay. Hence the mother has not been able to afford to get a woman to come in and wait on her. She has been doing too much, and is feeling faint and weak, for the child is only 12 days old. The eldest girl is scrubbing the passage outside. Even when the money comes promptly the maternity benefit does not go very far; 12s. 6d. must be paid to the midwife and about an equal sum for the washing of bed linen and baby clothes, etc., during the mother's illness. Little, if anything, remains for buying extra nourishment for the mother, and, if a doctor is called in, the 30s. cannot be made to cover all the extra expense. Sixpence a week for many weeks before the birth is often paid into a club for buying baby's clothes.

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At the best each birth brings to the working-class mother a heavy load of care and contriving. In those over-crowded little houses and dismal tenement dwellings are women whose faces tell a tragedy of weariness and toil. Their eyes are drawn and dull, their limp hair falls neglected, they are dressed in shabby and ungainly clothes; but once they were like those bright, active little children who climb upon them, boisterous and unheeding.

One of these mothers has a varicose ulcer, her leg is swollen, she cannot put her foot to the ground. She rests her knee upon a chair, dragging herself and this improvised crutch about the room, dressing and washing the children, making the bed and washing up the dinner things, with painful slowness, stooping with an effort to pick up things that the children have thrown down. She lies on the bed for a brief space, but just as the pain of that leg that should have rest begins to ease, she must be up because the children are asking for bread and butter. Stifling the impatient protest that for a moment rises in her breast, she crushes the noisiest little youngster in her arms, kissing and praising her. But her leg tortures her, and she doubles it under her in the attempt to deaden the pain. These two miserable rooms are a "model" dwelling, built by the L.C.C. The sink, shared by several families, is outside on the landing. The coal drawer is in the living room, and above it are the cupboards provided for meat and groceries, the former having a perforated door. She complains that the coal dust flies in and settles on the food.

She is a soldier's wife, and because she went North to where her husband was stationed before he was sent to France she is being kept waiting for her London allowance. In a few days' time she will bring another life into the world.

* * *

So many mothers dread the birth of their children. So little is done to lighten the weight of each additional burden to the women, who already are bowed down with responsibility and scarcely know how to pay their way week by week! And yet statesmen are aggrieved by the decline in the birth-rate, and a National Commission has recently concluded a two and a half years' study of the question.

In the course of its labours the National Commission examined many well-known personages, but, in spite of the lengthy interviews it has had with them, it has little of any moment to say. The detailed reports of the evidence are of greater interest than the findings of the Commismission, which are indefinite, and offer no practical suggestions for dealing with the problems involved.

The volume of evidence and the observations of the Commissioners cannot be read without a sense of deep depression. A gloomy picture is revealed of human beings harried by the sex instinct within them, the hard competitive struggle for a livelihood for themselves and their dependants, and the need of the mother for peace from the strain of pregnancy and child-bearing. This struggle is but too clearly apparent in every section of society. The evidence discloses that the use of preventive devices is growing steadily and that it began with the well-to-do, but is rapidly spreading downwards to the poorest, amongst whom the practice of abortion is said to be extensive. Dr. Mary Scharlieb repeated a statement that in the working classes there are five abortions to every one live birth.

The Bishop of Southwark dealt with the problem very strictly. In his view the sexual relation should only be used for the express purpose of producing children and continuing the human race. He declared that if any other motive than this is present "it will become in practice self-gratification," and this he believes to be wrong. On the other hand, Principal Garvie argued that the marital embrace, as an expression of mutual affection, is on a higher moral plane than the desire to produce children. The Bishop replied: "I believe it to be extraordinarily dangerous to say that that is the principal form that mutual affection and respect should take." The contest between the two views of sexual relationship here set forth is one of deep permanent interest to humankind.

As yet but few people are prepared to take up a definite theoretical stand on either side, and still fewer of those who clearly adopt either standpoint in theory are prepared to carry it out to its practical conclusion.

This is true, perhaps, even of the Bishop of Southwark, for he weakened his position by appearing in his answers to questions to apply the standard more rigidly to the working classes than to others.

Dr. Drysdale, secretary of the Malthusian League, was the only witness who appeared to think prevention desirable as an end in itself in order that sexual intercourse might be indulged in without regard to the possibility of conception.

We are unable to agree with Dr. Drysdale that artificial devices can ever be anything but regrettable. But we recognise that this question is infinitely difficult, because of the diverse temperaments and stages of development reached by individuals. The problem is, moreover, horribly complicated by our competitive capitalistic system, with its appalling extremes of poverty, and by the economic dependence of the mass of women.

The decision will always be one, we think, for the two most intimately concerned, though they may be influenced by the outside teaching of others. Only by infinite sympathy and desire of understanding can any help be given to those who must make the choice.

Yet, to poor people the problem is infinitely more difficult than to the rich. No economic pressure need hinder a Bishop from having as many children as he pleases. The Bishop of Southwark was able to dismiss the economic difficulties of which he has no personal experience with exhortations to continence, but Dr. Mary Scharlieb and several other medical witnesses were of opinion that absolute continence between married people dwelling in daily intercourse, cannot be practised without incurring serious nervous and other ills. Dr. Scharlieb was of opinion that even the restriction of the sexual act to the intermenstrual period, for the purpose of preventing conception, is likely to cause injury to health, though the majority of medical witnesses were of opinion that this is harmless, and all the religious authorities but the Bishop of Southwark contended that it is allowable as a lesser evil. It was stated, however, that this is not a certain method of prevention.

Mrs. Burgwin, who, like the Bishop, works in Southwark, and expressed, though more crudely, and also more practically, a similar view, was very hard in her judgment of women and of the present generation. She appears to be opposed to any kind of social reform. She expressed regret for having been one of those who had worked to get the filthy process of rabbit-skin dressing removed from the overcrowded homes of the workers to the factory, because she now believes that as the woman must stay away from the factory till her baby is a month old, the stoppage of home work has led the women to desire fewer children.

Mrs. Burgwin declared that forty years ago large families were more common in Southwark than they are to-day, and wages were lower, yet the children were as well looked after as they are now. She forgot that the cost of living has been rising steadily of late years, and that the retail price of food advanced from 19.7 per cent. in 1896 to 116.8 in 1914.

The witness complained that women marry too late and desire to limit their families, but she stated that the "worst class of the population" has the largest families, and said of a woman who had sixteen children that she "ought to have been segregated." Coercionist ideals are not confined to military and industrial matters; there are some who would introduce them into the most intimate relations of family life. They believe that it is only by fear of punishment that the masses can be kept from going astray.

HOUSING.

This witness further complained that the powers of the Borough Councils to deal with "what you call overcrowding" have tended to reduce the size of working-class families, and, unfortunately, her view of the situation was held by others also. The Commissioners make no definite recommendation on the housing question, though admitting the need to be urgent, and they mention that some persons object to the State providing cheap dwellings for ill-paid workers, on the ground that to do so is to put money into the pocket of the sweater. This, by the way, is a convenient excuse for doing nothing.

Mr. W. J. Berry, Assistant Housing Manager to the L.C.C., stated that the rent charged for Council dwellings varies from 2s. 3d. a week to 6s. for a single room, to from 12s. 6d. and 13s. 6d. for a six-roomed tenement. There exist, by the way, only three six-roomed tenements, 14 with five rooms, and 328 with four. The vast majority of L.C.C. tenements, numbering 3,301 and 2,614 respectively, consist of two and three

(Continued on page 509.)

PARLIAMENT AS WE SEE IT

June 27th.—Mr. Llewelyn Williams said that Ithel Davies, a conscientious objector, had his nose broken, and shovels full of mud and stones thrown over him at Mold military detention barracks. Mr. Tennant denied the charge, and said, "this question shows the desirability of treating these allegations of ill-treatment with great caution."

But official denial of uncontrovertible fact is most common.

* * *

Mr. Outhwaite asked that where conscientious objectors allege ill-treatment their statements should be tested by medical examination. Mr. Tennant: "No, sir!"

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In reply to Mr. Hogge, Mr. Hayes Fisher stated that a soldier, refused increase of pension by the Chelsea Commissioners, can apply to the Statutory Committee for a supplementary pension. The Statutory Committee, however, would make inquiries of the Chelsea Hospital Medical Board before increasing pension.

This is another instance of the roundabout methods that are already causing great misery and suffering to disabled soldiers and their families. Illness is greatly prolonged, and hope of recovery pushed further off by leaving the men to starve for months before granting them some slender pittance.

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June 28th.—Lord Robert Cecil, in reply to Mr. Hewins, stated that the "chief purpose" of the Conferences which he attended in Paris was to consider whether the Allies should continue their partial adoption of the Declaration of London—the decision was in the negative.

Why?

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The ill-treatment of young Irishwomen doing Red Cross work for wounded on both sides during the insurrection in Dublin was again brought forward by Mr. Ginnell. Mr. Tennant refused to believe that they were given no beds, and that hardened criminals were forced in amongst them.

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The Prime Minister stated, in reply to Mr. Ginnell, that he was in communication with Mrs. Sheehy Skeffington's solicitor about the promised public inquiry into the murder of her husband.

When will Mr. Asquith keep his promise?

* * * *

The failure of the Price of Coal Limitation Act, 1915, to prevent the price of coal from rising was raised by Mr. MacCallum Scott.

Mr. Harcourt replied: "It can hardly be said that it has failed to achieve its object."

How, then, does he account for coal costing 50s. a ton in Ireland?

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The Chelsea Commissioners number twenty-four; three go to form a quorum, and three members are paid.

* * * *

Major Newman complained of the difficulty which soldiers discharged from hospital as unfit for further service experience in obtaining their arrears of pay.

The War Office evidently imagines that these people have a banking account!

* * * *

June 29th.—In the House of Commons, Mr. Nield asked the Home Secretary to save the expense of having the names of all men in the Army, Navy, and Territorial Forces excluded from the jury lists now about to be compiled, as by the Juries Act, 1870, and by the Territorial Forces Act, 1907, all officers and men in the Forces are exempt. Mr. Nield failed to make the obvious suggestion that women should replace the men, which practice has been found most successful in countries where women act as jurors.

* * * *

The Prime Minister made his promised statement in regard to the treatment of the conscientious objectors. He stated that the War Office would first sift all cases to decide whether there is *primâ facie* evidence of conscientious objection. After this the case will be considered by the Appeal Tribunal. Men who, after running the gauntlet of inspection by both these hostile authorities, are at length held to be conscientious objectors, "will be released from the civil prison on their undertaking to perform work of national importance under civil control. They will be transferred *pro forma* to Section W of the Army Reserve; but will cease to be subject to military discipline so long as they carry out satisfactorily the duties imposed upon them. Those who are not held to be conscientious objectors will be treated "with the utmost rigour."

Things appear to be still at a deadlock. This the Tribunals have hitherto refused to acknowledge. There is no security that they will do so now.

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Mr. Harvey and Mr. Thomas drew attention to the fact that the unattested postal servants are being dismissed, although there is a shortage of labour in the Post Office, whilst the attested men are being kept on. This is how conscription can be used to terrorise industrial workers. This time the conscientious objector is being punished. Who next?

* * * *

July 3rd.—Mr. Herbert Samuel announced that Mr. Fenner Brockway will be forced, by the usual provisions of the Summary Jurisdiction Acts, to pay his fine of £100 and £10 costs. If the amount cannot be raised by distress he will be imprisoned for 61 days.

* * * *

July 4th.—In the House of Lords, Lord Devonport condemned the military brutality in the treatment of conscientious objectors. In the Commons, Mr. Tennant stated it had been decided in future that no attempt should be made to compel soldiers physically to obey orders, but that if they were guilty of insubordinate conduct they would be remanded for trial before a district court-martial.

Is this a guarantee?

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Mr. King informed the Prime Minister that General Child, Director of Personal Services at the War Office, had said that he "would favour the elimination of all conscientious objectors by the powers given in Section 9 of the Army Act," which allows the death penalty for wilful defiance of authority. The Prime Minister explained that no official in the War Office would be concerned with the regulations announced by him on June 29th, and that the final decision rested with the Central Appeal Tribunal.

Mr. Asquith is too fond of practising the art of deception, for which he is fitted by his legal training. When plain statement is asked of him his answer is "Wait and see."

* * * *

Mr. Anderson asked whether the Minister of Munitions will secure that an adequate minimum wage be paid to all women to whom the provisions of Section 7 of the Munitions Act have been applied by Order? Dr. Addison hoped to issue an Order dealing with this matter during the week.

It is about time that Order appeared!

Three hours were spent in discussing a Bill for rebuilding Charing Cross Bridge, a Bill which Mr. John Burns said would never have passed the examiners if we had a Minister of Arts or an Office of Works like Germany, France, Austria, and Belgium. This, by the way, is the first time that Mr. Burns has spoken during the War. The Second Reading was postponed for three months.

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In presenting the annual estimates for the Post Office, Mr. Pease said the Post Office revenue had increased by £4,000,000 over last year, and that £1,000,000 worth of economies had been effected.

Why, then, are postal servants paid such scandalously low wages?

* * * *

Mr. Hogge complained that women in the Edinburgh G.P.O. are paid 21s. a week, and that their war bonus of 1s. 6d. has been absorbed by the charges for their meals made by the Post Office itself.

21s. is a low wage, but, unfortunately, many women postal servants get less. Mr. Pease might well say, "25,000 women have come forward, more out of patriotic motives than any other," for the Post Office wages offer but small inducement!

THE IRISH QUESTION

The Royal Commission on the causes of the Irish Rebellion has issued its report. One of its opinions is that "If the Irish system of government be regarded as a whole it is anomalous in quiet times, and almost unworkable in times of crisis."

This conclusion is quite sound, but the system *is and was not "Irish"*; it was forced by the British Government on Ireland. Let those anxious to settle the Irish question pay heed to this, and allow the Irish people to choose its own Government; it is the only solution!

HOW IT IS DONE

An I.L.P. meeting, arranged to take place in Essex Hall on Tuesday last, was stopped. Typewritten circulars bearing the following words were distributed in restaurants, etc.:—

"TO ALL MEDICAL STUDENTS AND OTHER LOYAL BRITISHERS.

"A Meeting will take place to-night, at 7 p.m., at Essex Hall, Strand, under the auspices of the 'Stop the War' Party. You are requested to bring your little Union Jacks and say 'God Save the King.'"

AFTER FIGHTING FOR A FREE COUNTRY

Dear Editor,—Just a few lines stating my case to you. I am a soldier discharged as "medically unfit for War service" on April 29th, 1916. I am not able to do a light job of any kind; I tried to do a light job, but failed. I went to my family doctor on May 2nd, 1916, and I am still under his treatment. I have also reported myself to the National Health Insurance Committee with two medical certificates since being discharged on April 29th, 1916, and can't get a satisfactory answer as yet. I am getting 12s. 6d. a week pension. I am left with shattered nerves, gassed, and concussion of the spine through fighting at Ypres, May 24th, 1915. I was blown out of a trench by a "Jack Johnson" and gassed on Whit-Monday morning, May 24th, 1915, and it has left me useless, so far. I have been in eight different hospitals under twelve nerve specialists, and am no better yet, and I have to go into a convalescent home at Southport as soon as there is a bed vacant, but I cannot say how long I shall have to wait.

I am fairly in debt with different things, and have very little to eat with the food-stuffs being so dear, and my wife is in ill-health and is unable to work to help me; there is no living on my pension of 12s. 6d. a week. The only thing I can see for me and my wife is the Workhouse staring me and her in the face. I have been a hard working man all my life, except when serving my King and country to the best of my ability, now I am a "done man." This is after doing my duty for my King and country, fighting for a free country, left useless.

If you could do anything for me towards getting me more money to live on I should be extremely thankful to you.

Mrs. L——, Bow, has three children, aged 7, 5, and 3, and is expecting another one in a few months' time. Her husband, who was a coachman for an undertaker, joined the Army on April 8th, 1915. He was wounded on November 17th, 1915, in the battle of Loos by shrapnel in his right hand, which is now useless. He was discharged on March 20th, 1916, as physically unfit for army service. He is only 31 years of age, but can get no work, as his nerves are shattered. He has been granted a pension of 8s. 6d. weekly for himself and children. His wife evidently does not count, although she is bearing a future citizen. She has been doing 3 dozen shirts at 1s. 6d. a dozen (total, 4s. 6d., out of which 4d. for cotton) each week. Mr. L—— gets a further 5s. a week disablement benefit from the National Insurance. This makes a total of 18s. on which to keep five people and pay rent. Mr. and Mrs. L—— are in debt for rent, and this, the landlord tells them, is in the hands of the bailiffs.

Dear Editor,—I enclose a poem my husband sent to me. It is his own make up. I send the DREADNOUGHT to him every week—it goes to Egypt—and he likes the paper.

THE IRON TEMPEST.

Ofttimes one is caused to wonder
At the real cost of the War,
When we read of men in thousands
Being blown through Eternity's door.

And when we see strong men cripples,
Minus a hand, an arm, or leg,
Then the nation quite forgets them
And to live they are forced to beg.

Then, again, what of the wives,
Mothers, daughters, and sisters, too,
Who have lost their loved ones,
Saying: "War is cruel to me and you."

* * * *

Soldiers' wives who have sons at the front may now obtain separation allowance on account of both son and husband if they have other sons and daughters who benefited by the soldier brother's contributions to the household. Let them see that they get it.

EVOLUTION!

"If you turn two millions of men—forced, conscript, compelled, driven—into the field, you will always get amongst them a certain number who will do things that the nation to which they belong would be ashamed of."—Mr. Lloyd George, Queen's Hall, September 19th, 1914, published by the Parliamentary Recruiting Committee. Send him a reminder!

Particulars about the League of Rights for Soldiers' and Sailors' Wives and Relatives from 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

HUMAN SUFFRAGE

Get the Human Suffrage resolution signed by every organisation with which you are concerned!

This meeting calls on the Government to introduce not a Registration Bill but a Franchise Bill to give a vote to every woman and man over 21.

Copies of the Workers' Suffrage petition can be obtained from 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E. Get it signed by your workmates.

CHICAGO SUCCESS

On June 7th 6500 women in Chicago marched through a downpour of rain to the Republican National Convention, and won. The "New York Tribune" called it "The longest single step yet taken. The Chicago "Herald" wrote: "No more striking demonstration of the new power of woman in politics has been afforded. The parade in the rain helped to do the work." The Republican Party, the Progressive Party, the Socialist Party, the Prohibition Party have now all declared in favour of votes for women.

Though the Republican Plank was won, the Republican Party recognises the right of each State to settle this question for itself."

This means that the Republicans are not yet pledged to the nation-wide suffrage measure.

A WARNING!

WOMEN'S WORK ON THE LAND.

Two young girls from East London recently decided to respond to one of the attractively worded appeals to women to undertake farm work which receive so much publicity in the Press nowadays. They presented themselves at one of the most advertised agencies for obtaining work on the land, and were offered employment at Nottingham, and given a document stating that the work consisted of hay baling under Government; that it would be paid for at a wage of 2s. a day plus 3d. per ton baled by the team and 6d. per ton on work done after 9 hours a day; that railway fare would be refunded on arrival; that as the work would not always be continuous in the same village, 6d. a night would be paid for lodging if the work were more than four miles from home; that workers would be moved from place to place at Government expense and assistance given in finding lodgings.

The girls could not advance the single railway fare of 10s. each, and the agency declared its inability either to advance the money or to arrange for free passes. The two girls succeeded in borrowing their fares and went down to Nottingham with 12 other girls and women, each of whom had been given a similar paper describing the employment, but when the party reached Nottingham the lieutenant in charge of the work told them that they had been brought down under false pretences, and telephoned to turn back 26 other women who were expected.

The railway fare that had been promised was not forthcoming, but the workers were told that it might be repaid in a few months' time. The work that was expected of them was not hay baling, but chaff-cutting in a shed where the air was thick with dust which choked them. The lieutenant and the soldiers stationed there all told them that the work was too hard for them, the soldiers saying that they themselves had been sent to do it, but that they now refused as the dust had made them ill. Evidently there were no exhaust fans or other means of drawing off the dust. The women and girls were offered £1 1s. a week for the work, though lads of 18 had had 30s. for doing it. They had great difficulty in obtaining lodgings, the housekeepers of the district complaining that they had to wait weeks and weeks for Government billet money. Four of the women returned the same night, others got lodgings as best they could, the two East End girls agreeing to pay 18s. 6d. each for the first week and a half and 12s. 6d. a week after. The work proved so hard and exhausting that these girls returned at the end of a fortnight, whilst many others did not stay so long; all were determined to leave as soon as they could get enough money to pay their fares. The original fare to Nottingham has not yet been refunded, and return fares were definitely refused.

The Society which sent the girls down to Nottingham now says that the hay baling paper given to the workers was out of date.

Women and girls accepting work on the land should insist on obtaining a written agreement.

THE CHILDREN'S MILK

Dear Editor,—The London Trades Council are submitting a resolution that the Government should regulate the supply and distribution of coal, flour, milk, and meat.

With regard to milk, I give a table showing the gradual rise in price:—

Wholesale prices, 1914-15, summer, 8d. per imperial gallon; winter, 10½d. per imperial gallon.

Wholesale prices, 1915-16, summer, 10d.; winter, 1s. and 1s. 1d.

Wholesale prices, 1916, summer, 1s. 2d. and 1s. 3½d.

New contracts will be signed in September, when prices will be raised.

The corresponding retail prices were:—

Pre-War	4d.	per quart.
1915, February	4½d.	,,
,, October	5d.	,,
1916, April	6d.	,,

Various reasons have been given for the increase, among them being the high price of feeding stuffs. This is in direct contradiction to a statement in the *Farmer and Stockbreeder* to the effect that the cost of artificial foods was lowered by £2 per ton. The real reason for the higher cost of milk is to be found in the growth of a huge Trust, which is quietly spreading its tentacles over the country, and has amalgamated the following companies, among others:—The Wiltshire United Dairy Co., The Dairy Supply Co., Ltd., The Great Western Dairy Co., Gilbert's Ltd. Thus the supply of London milk is practically controlled by a combine, and prices would doubtless have risen even without the war, though that has afforded a very good excuse. Only State action can adequately deal with such a stupendous evil. To raise the price of milk means a limited or insufficient supply to the children of the poor, and in this way the life of the nation is impoverished to enrich a few unscrupulous men.—Yours, etc., FRANCES PREWETT.

GEO. GISSING ON CONSCRIPTION

Turning over the other day George Gissing's Autobiography—as "The Private Papers of Henry Ryecroft" virtually is—I felt more than usually interested in certain passages in which he refers to Conscription. Written in 1903, when war, especially such fierce warfare as we are now waging, seemed a horrible, but never-to-be-realised nightmare, when Conscription was abhorrent to the liberty-loving manhood of our country, Gissing's words express the mind and conviction of a singularly gifted and thoughtful English man of letters.

They reveal his keenness of outlook, that, in the midst of peace—following upon the turmoil and sorrow of the Boer War—he foresaw the dire chance that might precipitate upon European civilisation the revolting and sanguinary forces that hold Europe in their grip to-day. He writes thus :—

"Some one, I see, is lifting up his sweet voice in praise of Conscription. It is only at long intervals that one reads this kind of thing in our reviews and newspapers, and I am happy in believing that most English people are affected by it even as I am, with the sickness of dread and disgust. *That the thing is impossible in England who would venture to say?* (Italics are mine.) Every one who can think at all sees how slight are our safeguards against that barbaric force in man which the privileged races have so slowly and painfully brought into check. . . . . There has but to arise some Lord of Slaughter and the nations will be tearing at each others' throats. Let England be imperilled and Englishmen will fight; in such extremity there is no choice. But what a dreary change must come upon our islanders if, without instant danger, they bend beneath the curse of universal soldiering! I like to think that they will guard the liberty of their manhood even beyond the point of prudence. . . . . From a certain point of view, it would be better far that England should bleed under conquest than that she should be saved by eager, or careless, acceptance of Conscription. That view will not be held by the English people; but it would be a sorry thing for England if the day came when no one of those who love her harboured such a thought."

Gissing's forecast has been marvellously verified in present day events. L.A.M.P.

GIVE UNTO CÆSAR.

By Olive Schreiner

In some of those tribunals which have been instituted in England for the purpose of carrying out military conscription, young Englishmen who have stated they had a conscientious objection to the taking of human life, and who, therefore, could not become military conscripts, have in some instances been asked questions which give rise to thought.

At one of these tribunals a cross-questioner asked a young man how he dared to say he would not take human life, when it had once been said: "Give unto Cæsar the things that are Cæsar's."

The world knows that story from which the questioner quoted; how, when earth's greatest Conscientious Objector was cross-questioned by men who sought to lead Him into admissions which might end in imprisonment, or the death to which they ultimately brought Him, they asked Him whether it was lawful to give tribute to Cæsar or not. And He, perceiving their falseness, asked for a penny; and, when He had looked at it, asked whose image and superscription was upon it. They answered: "Give unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's——"

We were not told in the newspapers what was the young Englishman's answer to his interlocutor; but this was his true reply: If he place a tax of sixpence on a pound of tea, I will pay it. I may not think it wise, or even just; but Cæsar shall have his pennies, with his own image and superscription on them——. But when I look into the face of the weakest and humblest human creature, the negro child, the Chinaman, the Arab, the Kelt, the Teuton, the Slav, I see there, upon that face, an image and a superscription which is not Cæsar's. "Yes, I will render unto Cæsar the things which are Cæsar's, and, elsewhere, the things which belong elsewhere."

The court-martial on Mr. C. H. Norman at Chelsea Barracks was said to be a public one, and certain newspaper representatives were admitted, but Miss Eva Gore Booth, who went to report for the Woman's Dreadnought, was told that "no females are admitted to the Barracks." A gentleman representing a paper believed to be sympathetic to C.O.'s was also refused admission.

* * * *

That something in the nature of a general disarmament should take place after the War is not merely desirable, it is absolutely necessary in order to permit of the financial recuperation of the world.—Lord Cromer.

DANGEROUS EXAMPLE!

Chinese labour is being introduced into Russia. In the far Eastern parts of Europe Chinese and Korean labourers have long been employed. According to A. A. Mursky, a writer in the official *Commercial and Industrial Gasette*, they were at first employed only on the "most arduous and dirty kinds of work," but 20 years later "business men" took to employing them on a more extensive scale, with "disastrous consequences," so that "long years of stubborn work have been required to emancipate the Russian Eastern provinces from the Chinese." Ten years' work reduced the number of yellow residents, which in some districts is as high as 35 per cent., by 9.6 per cent. A. A. Mursky, therefore, considers that more Chinese labourers must not be imported into the far Eastern parts of Russia, but that they may safely be brought to European Russia in order to replace the Russians who are fighting or have been killed in the War. He says that the wages of Chinese workmen "for the same amount and duration of work" are half those paid to Russians. Also that "owing to the absence in their native lands of concern for the hygienic and sanitary condition of the masses, there is always a possibility of infectious disease among the Chinese labourers." He deplores the fact that "owing to conditions of transport, the conveyance of Chinese labourers westward cannot exceed 15,000 a month."

Tremendous invasion of ill-paid Chinese labourers into Russia is thus foreshadowed. This will seriously complicate the people's hard struggle for emancipation.

* * * *

ISLE OF MAN ROUSED.

On Wednesday, June 28th, a great gathering of people in Douglas, Isle of Man, passed resolutions against the taxation on food being re-imposed, the revenue from the Aliens' Camps being used for the ordinary expences of government, and asked for their allocation to meet distress in the island due to the War; it also expressed regret at the proposed return of Lord Raglan as Governor.

HASTEN SLOWLY, BUT DON'T OMIT TO HASTEN

By E. E. Swift.

I.—To be tolerable to workers and women, society has to be completely transformed. Required, a proposed basis for the transformation at once so complete as to inspire and to nerve; and also so matter-of-fact as to attract a majority of some 16 million adults, only a tiny fraction of whom are idealists. It is for women, "the practical sex," to find such a basis. Also to find how permanent peace may be secured.

II.—It would be well for us to realise that the capitalists may establish a permanent exploitative society in which we revolutionists would be a permanent minority; to realise the enemy may win: just in order to make us say: "Then we MUST win," and use our utmost brains and energy.

Time fights against us; if the capitalists can tide over unstable Capitalism into a new form of Servilism, giving every worker a secure livelihood, though a meagre one, the inert and prejudiced masses we find so hard to move now might then prove impossible to move. The capitalists are in possession of the minds of nearly all the people, and of nearly all the Press, the manufactory of public opinion.

Three leading Socialists, Anatole France, Jack London, and H. G. Wells, cannot imagine how we can possibly win. Their judgment cannot be brushed aside.

The two kinds of creatures that have developed societies have developed dreadful societies: the ants—all toil or slavery; the bees—a community of unsexed toilers, one female made into a patent incubator, and male drones. When we have already armies of spinsters, armies of women specialised not for motherhood, but for prostitution, and armies of unprivileged men maintained gratis not to procreate life, but destroy it, it is quite likely we may have gone too far astray to get straight again.

It is remarkable when prophecies are fulfilled. Belloc's prophecy of how Servilism would be brought about, has been, in the Insurance Act, and the anti-strike legislation, etc., since the War, and Herbert Spencer's, that seemed so mad, that Socialists would establish a bureaucratic Servilism—in our reforms, tidying up and tiding over Capitalism.

Our task is so difficult that if we can better the presentation of our case we cannot afford to forego the advantage.

III.—I contend there are two ways of bettering its presentment, to the great hastening of our majority :—

1. By keeping to the front of our propaganda, as the only safeguard against war, wholesale appropriation of all land and capital at one go, instead of mere by-the-way piecemeal nationalisations and reforms.

2. That we add to our programme this statement: that we intend to continue, after the wholesale appropriation, to pay their full pre-war spending incomes to the privileged, up to, say, £50,000 a year, for as long as the people please.

By appropriating wholesale, and employing both the present entrepreneurs, and their managers if possible, to make every untrustified industry a subordinate National Trust-Guild under a Co-ordinating Labour and Invention Guild—Trusts in Economy, and Guilds in Management by the workers themselves, and to combine and apply wherever applicable all inventions now unutilised or monopolised, especially in our most backward industry, agriculture, and to enlarge old or start new industries with all labour now wasted, especially in our most wasteful industries, wholesale and retail distribution—we could, on a not exaggerative estimate, without reckoning on future inventions, make double the wealth we make now, and give to the privileged their present half, on Chiozza Money's calculation, and have three times our present half; or give them their two-thirds, on other calculations, and have four times our one-third. That is, we suffer far less from what the rich steal from us than from what they won't let us make, far less from unfair distribution than from inadequate production, due to inadequate purchasing power.

Let us advocate our majority, when gained, passing a wholesale Act of Appropriation and Management, giving every man and woman, as consumer, whether privileged or working-class, one income-crediting, not profit-bearing, share in the pooled national property and giving the workers of each industry, as producers, the management of that industry, the choosing of foremen and of half the managers, the consumers to choose the other half. That way we should have a majority of shares, and could reduce incomes when we chose.

But let us also suggest to the rich, as an alternative, that they pool all land and capital, double and distribute wealth as above, and give every working-class man and woman one owner's share, and the management of each particular industry to its workers, but retain themselves a share for every £100 of their privileged incomes. That way they would have the security of more than half the shares.

Either way would secure to us the four essentials: ownership, or part ownership; democratic control; abolition of poverty; abolition of wages and profits for incomes and privileged incomes. Wagedom means that the workers get a fixed sum and the privileged all the rest. This economic revolution and half social revolution, would mean that the privileged would get a fixed sum and the workers all the rest. Just the reverse of the present position.

IV.—Defence of continuation of privilege: it attacks first enemy, prejudice and self-interest.

We need to put ourselves into the brains of those we are trying to convert. The workers, now crawling, have, I believe, to be got to kneel upright before they can be got to stand upright.

The job in any discussion is to keep it to the essential points. We want to clear away any point that can be dispensed with.

There are (1) thousands of workers who object to "robbery." Answer them: "Then don't rob; it's not *their money* you want, but *your tools*"; and their own human perversity will suggest: "Why should we be so kind?" Whereas our arguments would never move them. We frighten slaves by proposing straightway a classless society.

There are (2) the lower middle-class who have a little bit, and whose ears are now stopped up by terror for that little bit. Again, can we get the Co-operative Commonwealth without a co-operating agitation between the poor and all the better rich and comfortable, not only the very few very best attracted by Socialism?

Again, since the strong, unhypnotised English and French middle-class needed the workers' help to get their revolution, can a class weak while hypnotised get theirs without the help of the better privileged?

Of course, the active capitalists will fight the more vigorously on finding us put up a more dangerous fight.

But there are (3) the middle and upper class suffrage organisations; (4) the Churches; (5) the young generous rich; (6) the cultured; (7) even the sentimental idle rich. If these can be shown they can draw their incomes, with a minimum of risk, from national prosperity, can they not, in that case, be got to object to drawing them from slums, child slavery, prostitution, war, etc.? Tolstoy said the rich would do anything for the poor but get off their backs. Was he wrong? Because this is only asking them to ride on stooping instead of crawling brothers.

This proposal would remove the privileged using the limitless human power of self-deception as to the cleanness of their money. We ought to have a policy we can form an allied army on; also that we can offer, by deputations, to (8) statesmen, millionaires, monarchs, even the Pope. If we got nothing else, we should get the advertisement. And on such a basis the power of originality—like Disraeli—might be induced to rank foremost among the saviours of humanity from poverty, war, and dishonour.

We have the case for permanent peace to put.

It would strip the capitalists naked of reasonable excuse, which they are not now.

We have not merely to induce slaves to lift themselves under a mountain, but to hurl the mountain off them. This modified case could do no possible harm; would do good with the prejudiced workers and lower middle-class; and the chance whether it might do infinite further good is worth a strenuous trial.

Shall we lose or delay for centuries our victory because we cannot bring ourselves to adapt ourselves to the majority we have to convert?

V.—Defence of keeping wholesale appropriation to the front: the attack on second enemy, inertia.

1. The workman's invariable question is: How are you going to do it? That eternal question we Socialists have actually often refused to answer, saying we can't give details; or we have only given a list of nationalisations and reforms, the little things which are all we can do before we get our majority.

2. We have said our basis is social ownership of land and capital; but not how we propose to build on that basis. Instead, the nationalisations and reforms. And the fall is ludicrous.

3. Thinking to get Socialism by piecemeal nationalisations, we have given the impression it is necessarily a long way off. But the more we ask for, the more we shall get. Instead of, first, a series of morsels, all of which amount to less than half, and afterwards the more than half, let us ask for three-quarters first, and afterwards the quarter, and take mere nationalisations in our stride.

4. Because wholesale appropriation is the only way by which wealth can be doubled, and workers' wealth tripled or quadrupled, not to insist on wholesale appropriation is to stultify ourselves. No nationalisation or reform benefits everybody. However nationally important, it is personally important to only a few. "Incomes for all" comes home to everybody. Get workers and women interested for themselves, thence pass on to get them interested for other people. Hence it is easier to get a movement for three-quarters or the whole than for any fraction.

5. The energy now wastefully expended by the dozen movements and hundred sections, each refusing to be interested in the others—pool it by making wholesale change the proximate goal.

6. We have made Socialism a long way off by putting forward nationalisations, which only benefit a few, as proximate goals. Each knows everybody won't work for them. But a universal big benefit, yet not so big as to be incredible, each is prepared to work for that because he or she can expect others to work also.

7. The practice of rulers and powerful classes when they want anything done has always been revolution, *i.e.*, wholesale change, *long prepared for*, but sudden at last (*e.g.*, William the Conqueror, Henry VIII., Louis XIV. and XV., Peter and Alexander II. of Russia, English, French, and Japanese middle-class revolutions). Yet we have actually been gulled into accepting the hypocritical precept and self-contradictory, most dangerous lie of capitalism—that revolution doesn't happen, or does nothing when it does happen.

8. Biology is now saying that a species cannot originate without the simultaneous change of sundry organs.

9. Nationalisations cannot change the structure of society, but only bring about State Capitalism.

10. We should give details. The best I can suggest—easily to be bettered when debated—is to follow up the Act of Wholesale Appropriation and Management by dismissing, on full pay for drill, all useless workers, trustifying all industries, and especially the two most wasteful industries, wholesale and retail distribution, making and applying machinery, with all willing strong men, to our most backward industry, agriculture; building the first good houses for new agricultural workers and ex-distribution hands removed to manufacturing centres; removing them to make goods to fill all workers' houses; afterwards business houses could be fitted as temporary dwellings for undertaking a great house-building and drainage. Disused slummites. America and the war have shown men can be trained to new work in as little as six weeks. Charge more for sweated workers' work and so raise their money. The first increase of wealth to be given to the poorest of the housewives, till they have £1 a week; then divide the weekly increasing increase among all the workers as high as production can be raised.

11. There can be no general rise of wages, and then a stoppage, because that would lose foreign markets. But there can be a continuous rise of wages into incomes, because that gives more than compensating home markets.

12. The War is a war for markets and investment grounds.

13. New Zealand does nothing with its power, for want of constructive ideas. We haven't taken Socialism seriously.

It would be apt to make a splash with our bettered presentation of Socialism immediately after the War.

TO STIR UP HATE?

Dear Editor,—Publications of "German Atrocities" are multiplied and exhibited on bookstalls, etc., where young boys and girls may peer into their obscene chronicles, a single one of which would lead to the suppression of a novel and probable prosecution of its author. What pharisaism is it to call for the stricter censoring of cinemas, while these abominations are encouraged amongst us? And what purpose do they serve, beyond the profiteering that abounds from the sale of pornographic books? To stir up hate? Is that a sufficient recompense for the defiling of young minds? In the name of England, youth, and beauty, I deprecate the continuance of this shame.—Yours, etc., E. H. Visiak.

* * * *

Dear Editor,—On reading so often in the Dreadnought the rotten conditions existing in various firms, such as Bryant and May's and Waring and Gillow's, a whole crowd of my friends and relatives have stopped dealing with the firms mentioned from time to time in your paper, and in many shops the tradesmen have been quite surprised, interested and emphatic about such firms being boycotted. The Dreadnought is a topping paper. I am a member of the Freedom League, but will gladly forward my copy each week to someone if you could tell me an address. Perhaps there are some W.S.F. members in one of the many camps here. With the best of luck always for the Federation, Yours, etc., Winifred Giles.

C/o Captain Giles, W. Lancs. Divl. Cyclist Co.,
Park Hall Camp, Oswestry.

* * * *

A writer to the *Daily News* says: "I live on 8s. 6d. a week, and am a chronic invalid." Of course he is.

The Birth-Rate (continued from page 506).

rooms, the rents varying from 4s. 6d. to 8s. 6d. and 6s. to 11s. 6d. a week. Mr. Berry admitted that working people with large families cannot afford to live in L.C.C. tenements. To prevent over-crowding only two adult persons per room are allowed in the tenements, children under five not being counted, and children under ten as half an adult. When the family grows beyond that limit it must leave and get accommodation as best it can from private landlords, who, as all the housing experts agree, usually refuse to take in large families. This is known, of course, to every working-class mother. Therefore, the L.C.C. does nothing to cope with the worst feature of the house famine, which is so acute. And the Council is so much under the influence of the prevailing production for profit system that when families cannot afford to pay for more than two rooms, one room is sometimes sealed up and remains unused. The Guinness Trust provides cheaper dwellings than the L.C.C., and that is a reproach to the latter, but even the Guinness Trust is obliged to turn out large families. Mr. Peacock, the Estates Superintendent of the Duchy of Cornwall, said that German towns make a practice of buying up land 50 years ahead in order to prevent the prohibitive rents which render cheap housing impossible.

EDUCATION.

Efforts were made to discover whether the higher education of mothers has led to a decrease in their power of child-bearing. Most of the witnesses agreed that this was not the case. An investigation amongst college women and their non-college sisters and cousins showed that there was no difference in the birth-rate amongst the two groups, though the college women married, on the average, one year later. Dr. Florence Willey said that the active life of the modern university girl renders her fitter to endure a confinement. Dr. David Starr Jordan, of California, President of the Eugenic Section of the American Eugenic Association, testified that university women have better health than those who stay at home, and that the American children of to-day are the physical superiors of their predecessors.

The economic problem of the child's education, on the other hand, was regarded by almost every witness as having a deterrent influence on the birth-rate. Sir Francis Campneys made the practical suggestion that the income tax payers should be allowed to write off on their income tax papers the expense of their children's education as they now do their life insurance. He also suggested a bonus to those who do not pay income tax when their children are eight years old.

In regard to the education of working-class children, Monsignor Brown urged the reactionary plea that the struggle of the working classes is being made "perfectly impossible" by the restriction of child labour and the raising of the school age to fourteen years.

THE ANTE-NATAL LIFE.

The terrible subject of abortion was very extensively dealt with by many witnesses, and the sole unanimous recommendation made in the report is that the sale of diachylon or lead plaster, which is widely used for procuring abortion, and all salts and compounds of lead should be scheduled as poisons, and only sold by chemists on the production of a doctor's certificate. Every witness on the subject of conception was agreed that the practice of abortion is ruinous to the mother. Some witnesses thought that prevention might be almost as injurious, others were of opinion that excessive child-bearing is more injurious than prevention. Dr. Drysdale argued that abortion can only be abolished by substituting prevention, and quoted the Hungarian Medical Senate in support of this view. He stated that Dr. Alleta Jacobs has had for many years a free clinic at The Hague where 2,000 women have been instructed in preventive devices. He added that Amsterdam has the lowest death-rate and infant mortality of any capital in the world, and that whilst the Dutch Government has welcomed the Malthusian League and recognised it by Decree as a society of public utility, the death-rate and infant mortality rate are low throughout Holland, the increase of population, in spite of the falling birth-rate, is now the highest in Western Europe, and the stature of the people has risen by four inches in the last 50 years. Dr. Drysdale further claimed that in New Zealand, where the death-rate and infant mortality rate are the lowest in the world, prevention is most common.

But Dr. Drysdale desires the limitation of the population as an end in itself, because he believes, mistakenly as we consider, that the reduction of the population is the only infallible means of improving the lot of the workers. He also believes that small families are necessary to secure opportunities for freedom and reasonable self-development to married women. The Commissioners and the majority of witnesses wished to secure an increase in the population. Several witnesses stated that during recent years doctors have paid more attention than formally to the preservation of the mother. They have frequently urged on both parents that a reasonable period must elapse between the birth of each child, and some witnesses now seemed to feel that such action is to be regretted, a view from which we must emphatically dissent for the sake of both mother and child.

Dr. J. W. Ballantyne and others urged the registration of and careful inquiry into the causes of still-births, abortions, etc., care of the expectant mother to make her expectant pregnancy less irksome and her confinement safer and less painful. These things are, of course, essential, for the sake of the women and children who are and will be in the world, quite apart from any increase of population. But it is tremendously important that women, and especially the women concerned, should supervise these matters and retain their liberty of action. Otherwise grave and irreparable mistakes are likely to be made where matters so intimate and vital are concerned.

Dr. Ballantyne urged that people must be made to feel that it is murder to destroy ante-natal life, and that both parents and medical men should hesitate before they sacrifice the life of an unborn child to save that of its mother. He stated that the German medical school places the mother's life first; whilst the French school prefers the child's life. (This is quite contrary, by the way, to the spirit of what is being said about Germany during the War.) Such statements should be received with caution. We should strongly deprecate any tendency to worsen the position of British mothers in public regard, for it has always been too low.

Dr. Armand Routh, Obstretric Physician to Charing Cross Hospital, made an interesting suggestion that Maternity Insurance Benefit should be placed in the hands of the Medical Officer of Health for the district, in order that mothers might voluntarily notify their pregnancy to him (and there is no reason why a woman should not be a Medical Officer). If the notification were made to the M.O.H., any medical care that might be needed either before or during the confinement could readily be arranged for. Dr. Routh, who has the practical experience combined with medical knowledge which some other witnesses evidently lacked, testified to the undoubted fact that poor housing and food are a fruitful cause of ante-natal mortality. He urged that the maternity benefit is insufficient, and that in addition 5s. to 7s. a week should be granted for several weeks before and after the confinement.

There is a tendency, which revealed itself in the remarks both of some Commissioners and witnesses, to argue comfortably that as the birth-rate is highest amongst the poorest people, and in the most densely crowded dwellings, the standard of life for the masses must not be raised lest their desire to bear children decline as that of more fortunate people has done. This tendency we must oppose with all our might, for its triumph means a hideous martyrdom for poor mothers and their children, and must inevitably lead to race suicide and all degeneracy. What we desire is not more children, but children better born, with happier lives before them; children who shall come to their parents, not as a burden to be dreaded, but as the most precious and joyously welcomed of all gifts.

Under present conditions an increasing number of women feel that the world is not fit to receive their children.

E. SYLVIA PANKHURST.

THE ECONOMY EXHIBITION

The first thing that I noticed about the Economy Exhibition at the Prince's Skating Rink was that it is of absolutely no use to the workers, because one would have to be possessed of means to indulge in the forms of economy that are displayed there. There were very nice stoves, for instance, that working men's wives or mothers would be glad to use, but cannot possibly afford to buy, and we know perfectly well that the landlords will not fit them into our houses—although they should be *made* to. Then the machines for cleaning; 4s. 11d. for a mop and 10s. 6d. for a bucket; but *we* should be called extravagant and not economical if we indulged in luxuries such as these! No, *our* poor backs will have to ache a long time before we can afford those!

Another suggested economy was making children's shirts out of their father's old pants and undervests; but by the time the workman has finished with his vest and pants, they are not fit for anything more than house flannels, and in any case, we can never pay 7s. 6d. for a garment, which was said to be the original price of those exhibited. Then, "How to Feed the Children"—a splendid exhibit, but with one thing lacking, the means to obtain it! I asked the person in charge of the stall if she thought a workman's wife with six children could afford it out of 30s. a week, but could not get a satisfactory reply. *I* knew she couldn't! Then the nut foods and other so-called food economies did not seem very practical, but rather hobbies for passing time away. I have heard from people who have tried this diet that it is expensive, because it is unsatisfying, unless a large variety is taken. I heard some ladies who were passing say that they had come to take ideas home to their servants, and then realised that this was what the exhibition must be intended for, although, of course, those ladies would not use the *banana crates* exhibited as cradles for *their babies*. As a working woman, I say that if I am expected to use the banana crate, I also want to use the expensive labour-saving devices, stoves, vacuum cleaners, etc., and I also want the means whereby I can purchase sufficient food for my children, if only to save a doctor's bill for saving the children (the truest national economy of all). I came away feeling that one-half the world really does not know how the other half lives!—C. DRAKE.

CO-OPERATIVE WOMEN'S GUILD CONGRESS.

SECOND DAY (JUNE 28th).

In the Co-operative Movement, with the exception of a few backward societies in the North of England, women stand equal with men, they have the same right to speak, the same power to vote, and sit on many of the Management Committees.

In 1907 the Guild won for all its women employees a minimum wage, and now that women are deplacing men in so many industries it keeps up the fight for a good standard of wages. A resolution, passed unanimously, demanded that experienced women should receive the same pay as the men they displaced, and experienced women should receive the same pay after a year's training. So strong is the desire for the vote that the resolution for Adult Suffrage was carried without any discussion. The mover of the resolution ended her speech by the suggestion that all women's movements should join together to get a full and perfect measure.

Full of intense feeling were the speeches on Child Labour and Education. One speaker emphasised a truth only too well known to those who work in the Labour Movements: "If you keep a child mentally blind, you keep the democracy inactive. A Guild woman from Bradford said that a fortnight ago, with the sanction of the Bradford Education Council, 2500 children made ecxuses (which someone else had invented for them) to leave school to work in the factories. "We say some kinds of work in factories and on the land is not suitable for women," said another speaker, "and yet we are asking children to do it."

Mrs. Barton said: We want the nations now at War to meet and consider what terms they will be satisfied with. But the anguish in the souls of some of these women overpowered their reason, for, with the help of the capitalist Press, they had come to believe in the possibility of smashing Germany. Yet when the vote was taken, it was only a very small proportion of women who did not still follow the Co-operative ideal of universal brotherhood.

Miss Lilian Harris, assistant secretary of the Guild, put the case for Co-operation and International Trade very clearly, and the large majority of the delegates remained firm to the Co-operative principle that nationality should be no barrier to trade. Great progress in the spread of Co-operation was reported.

In 1895 the London district was a Co-operative desert, with a small scattered trade of £592,589. Now it is probably the most progressive district, with a trade of £3,592,268. It is in London that the ideals of the Rochdale pioneers have always been most firmly upheld, and the Women's Guilds are the moving spirit behind the Societies. In some districts Stores have been opened, giving every facility to the very poorest members. With a number of Stores the entrance fee has been abolished, the credit system is being done away with, membership is open to all, and goods of Co-operative make are more and more being brought to the notice of members.

Wherever the Women's Co-operative Guild has a branch it welcomes everyone; the yearly subscriptio nis small, the organisation of the Guild is entirely democratic, and I believe it is quite possible to say it stands for all the ideals of humanity.—FLORENCE RANSOM.

Anna Bell, a 20-year-old girl of Pittsburg, the Washington *Northwest Worker* writes, is called the "pride of the strikers," among whom she is a leader. She has been arrested twice in one week—once on a charge of attacking a strike-breaker, and again on a charge of murder. Her reason for being a strike leader is because she believes "working men and working women are imposed upon by the capitalists." So do we.

Six Babies Who Thrived

A STORY of infant-care is here published, without comment, in the hope that everyone who is interested in the great work of conservation of child life, and who sees this article, will read it. The story is told in the Doctor's own words. Professional etiquette precludes the publication of his name:—

"A scientifically standardised food for babies and young children has long been sought for, and at my request Glaxo Company supplied me with Glaxo, a food having a composition, when prepared for use, practically identical with that of human milk.

"I have given it an excellent trial in the children's ward of this institution during the past summer, at a time when milk of proper quality was difficult to obtain.

"Six babies suffering from malnutrition and wasting were selected for treatment; all were thin and miserable examples of children unable to digest the ordinary milk and other children's foods in vogue in the neighbourhood. They have, without exception, fared extremely well, and have been sent out to their parents strong and healthy. The case of R—— B——, aged six months, may be quoted as a good example of the manner in which they all progressed.

"On admission, on June 15th, 1907, she weighed 9lbs. 4ozs., and was obviously rapidly wasting from an inability to assimilate the nourishment supplied.

"The following table of recorded increases in weight needs no descriptive explanation:—

	lb.	oz.		lb.	oz.
June 15th ...	9	4	Aug. 7th ...	11	12
" 19th ...	9	6	" 14th ...	12	4
" 26th ...	10	0	" 21st ...	12	4
July 3rd ...	10	8	Sept. 2nd ...	13	8
" 10th ...	11	0	" 11th ...	13	10
" 17th ...	11	0	" 18th ...	14	2
" 24th ...	11	4	" 25th ...	13	12
" 28th ...	11	4	Oct. 2nd ...	14	10
" 31st ...	11	8			

"On September 18th she was vaccinated, and lost 6 ozs. during the following week; in the succeeding seven days, however, she gained 14ozs., and then was discharged to her home, a model of all that a baby should be.

"The food is easily prepared, and the children take to it with evident pleasure. The Ward Sister, who has strong objections, based upon repeated disappointments, to all patent and proprietary foods, acknowledges the success of 'Glaxo.'"

(Signed).....M. D. London,
D.P.H., Barrister-at-Law, Medical Superintendent.

The address of Glaxo is:—Dept. 52, 155 Great Portland St., London, W.
Proprietors of Glaxo are—Joseph Nathan & Co., Ltd., London & Wellington, N.Z.

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THE
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LONDON MEETINGS.

FRIDAY, JULY 7th.
5 Duke Street, Strand, 11.30 a.m., Joint Poster Parade.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3.30 p.m., Miss Stephen.
SATURDAY, JULY 8th.
Grundy Street, 3 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Stephen.
Morpeth Street, 3 p.m., Miss Price.
SUNDAY, JULY 9th.
Osborne Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Morning Lane and Mare Street, 11.30 a.m., Mrs. Cressall, Miss Stephen.
Outside Cock Hotel, East Ham, 12 (noon), Joint Meeting with N.C.F., Miss Lynch.
Victoria Park, 3 p.m., Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, Mrs. Walshe.
Hoe Street, Walthamstow (Joint Meeting with A.C.C.), 7 p.m., Mrs. Cressall.
Bioscope Theatre, 7.30 p.m. Public Meeting.
MONDAY, JULY 10th.
White Cross Street, 1 p.m., Miss Price.
Leslia Road, 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
Green Gate, 7 p.m., Miss Lynch.
TUESDAY, JULY 11th.
Chrisp Street, 1 p.m., Miss Price, Miss Stephen.
40 Glaskin Road, 8 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Stephen.
WEDNESDAY, JULY 12th.
53 St. Leonard's Street, 7 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier.
THURSDAY, JULY 13th.
55 Fife Road, 8 p.m., Mrs. Cressall, Mrs. Parsons.
FRIDAY, JULY 14th.
Poplar Women's Hall, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Gregory, Miss Stephen.
SATURDAY, JULY 15th.
Grundy Street, 3.30 p.m., Mrs. Davies.
Hague Street, 3.30 p.m., Miss Price.
Well Street and Morning Lane, 11.30 p.m., Mrs. Bouvier, Miss Stephen.
Beckton Road, 7 p.m., Miss Lynch.
SUNDAY, JULY 16th.
Hyde Park, 5 p.m., Miss Price, Mrs. Bouvier,

W.S.F. BRANCHES.
LONDON.

Bow, 400 Old Ford Road. Sec. *pro tem.*, Miss Price.
Successful Sunday meetings have been held at Hampstead Heath, Victoria Park and Hyde Park throughout the month. Great enthusiasm for our speakers was shown at all meetings. Our mid-day propaganda outside local factories is going well. Peace petitions and suffrage petitions are receiving strong support. Can all members make an extra effort to keep their subscriptions up-to-date?

Our cost price restaurant is gaining increasing support, the dinners proving a great boon to men and women workers.

DREADNOUGHT sales, 1206. Mrs. Holloway, 215; Miss O'Brien, 200; Miss Price, 163; Mrs. Bellyse, 144; Mrs. Eglinton, 116; Mrs. Greer, 83; Miss Mackay, 61; Miss Vine, 33; Mrs. Payne, 23; Mrs. Farrall, 14; Mrs. Savoy, 12. General sales, 118.

POPLAR, 20 Railway Street. Secretary, Miss Stephen. DREADNOUGHT sales: Mrs. Shiette, 92; Miss K. Lagsding, 40; Mrs. Bertram, 9; Mrs. Neuss, 6. General sales, 155—total, 300. Collections: Miss E. Lagsding and Miss M. Carr, at Green's Yard, 9s.; Miss K. Lagsding and Mrs. Groves, at Cubitt Town, 9s.; Miss Stephen, 4s. 2d. Poplar sales are going up!

HACKNEY, 40 Glaskin Road. Secretary: Miss Stephen.
Members might please note that meeting night is changed to Tuesdays at 8 p.m. I hope this will suit members better, and that they will endeavour to turn up in greater numbers as there are several important matters to be discussed. I have to thank Mrs. Salmon and Mrs. Goodman for help given, and hope that other members will follow their example, either by selling papers or canvassing.
DREADNOUGHT sales, 50.

BROMLEY, 53 St. Leonard's Street. Hon. Secs., Mrs. Lansbury, Mrs. Wood. DREADNOUGHT sales, 90.

* * * *

Our Southampton branch is getting up a strawberry tea and social as a way of raising money for the W.S.F. We shall be glad if other friends will take up this excellent suggestion.

W.L.L. & W.S.F.

Members of the Barking W.L.L. and W.S.F. went on a deputation to the Council about the dust collection. Mrs. Clarke denounced the practice of building houses back to back without allowing for a rear entrance through which the dustbins could be emptied, instead of forcing people to bring them through their front rooms, where their children were playing. The system of leaving no back entrance, Mrs. Clarke calculated, made a difference of one extra house in every 100 yards.

This proves that landlords and persons financially interested should have no say where the health of women and children is concerned—they naturally look to the main point: Money.

* * * *

MAXIMS FOR "DREADNOUGHT" BUYERS, SELLERS, AND BRANCH SECRETARIES.

If the paper does not come to time, don't grumble, but ring up 1787 East, or write to 400 Old Ford Road, London, E.

If your newsagent does not get your paper regularly, have a friendly talk with him, and find out why, then write to 400 Old Ford Road, E., and tell us what is wrong.

If the people who ought to sell the DREADNOUGHT do not turn up, find other sellers, and lend a hand on your own account. Always lend a helping hand when things go wrong, instead of criticising. Remember that the other human being has probably too much to do.

Information for Overseas Friends.

The Dreadnought can be sent from this Office to all neutral countries and through the neutral countries to belligerents.

"Woman's Dreadnought," post free, 4/4 per annum.

W.S.F. FORTHCOMING EVENTS

A Public Meeting will be held in the Barking Broadway Bioscope Theatre on Sunday, July 9th, at 7.30 p.m. Subject: "Why we should Demand Human Suffrage Now." Speakers: Mrs. Despard, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst, and Mr. George Lansbury. Chair: Mrs. Jessie Clarke.

Our Thursday Chandos Hall "At Homes" (21a Maiden Lane, W.C.) for July will be held in the evening, and will take place on July 13th, 20th, and 27th, at 8 p.m. On July 13th Miss Sylvia Pankhurst and Mr. George Lansbury are to be amongst the speakers, chair, Mrs. Bouvier. July 20th, Mrs. Boyd Dawson, Mr. G. M. Hann; 27th, Miss Basnett, Mr. Harry Dubery. Chair on both these dates, Miss Sylvia Pankhurst.

On Saturday, July 15th, we are arranging to hold a Baby Welfare Competition at the L.C.C. Roman Road Girls' School, Bow, E., at 2.30 p.m. Prizes will be given for the healthiest babies attending our clinics, and there will also be an open competition for babies from 1 to 3 months, 3 to 6, 6 to 9, 9 to 12, 12 to 15. Also Exhibition of Hygienic Baby Clothes, Stretchers etc. Entrance tickets 2d. each, to be obtained at "The Mothers' Arms," 438 Old Ford Road; 20 Railway Street, Poplar; 53 St. Leonard's Street, Bromley; and 55 Fife Road, Canning Town.

Members should make a point of attending the W.S.F. London Section General Meeting at 400 Old Ford Road, on Monday, July 17th, at 8 p.m.; also the Public Meeting in East Ham Town Hall, on Sunday, July 30th, at 7.30 p.m., where Miss S. Pankhurst, Mrs. Walker, and Mrs. Thompson will speak.

THREE HALF-PENCE PER HOUR!

Dear Editor,—Success to your paper. I am an artificial flower-maker. Some of us women have to slave for 1½d. per hour; it's not German prisbn made or foreign dumped goods now; These bloodsuckers of girls' and women's labour in City houses ought to be exposed. But if you ask for more and better conditions you are told to wait. How can they expect us mothers to bear healthy children on rotten wages?—Yours, etc.,

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Clippings of material of all kinds (must measure at least 5 by 6 inches) can be used in our Toy Factory at 45 Norman Road, Bow, E., and will be most gratefully received if friends will kindly send them.

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All parcels to 400 Old Ford Road, Bow, E.

MOTHERS AND BABIES.

THE MOTHER'S ARMS,
438 OLD FORD ROAD, BOW.

Day nursery from 8 a.m. to 7 p.m. Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Mondays, 2.30 p.m. Mothers and babies can consult Nurse at any time.

20 RAILWAY STREET, POPLAR
(opposite South Bromley Station).

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 3 p.m. Nurse may be seen at any time.

53 ST. LEONARD'S STREET, BROMLEY-BY-BOW.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 2 p.m.

55 FIFE ROAD, CANNING TOWN.

Doctor's consultation and baby-weighing, Tuesdays, 4 p.m.
All mothers and children are welcome.
COST PRICE RESTAURANTS at 400 Old Ford Road, and 20 Railway Street. Dinners from 12 till 2 p.m. daily.

WANTS.

Subscriptions to the milk and food fund. Doctoring and nursing can help little if mothers and children are unable to obtain the nourishment that is ordered.

New laid eggs, barley, glaxo, virol, for invalids. Medicine bottles, clothing and shoes for adults and boys and girls of all ages.

For baby, four gowns, four barrows, two flannel bands, twelve napkins, three vests, and a cot blanket; for mother, two nightgowns, woollen shawl, three towels, two sheets, and a pair of pillow cases.

Growing plants and cut flowers for all our centres. We should be grateful to friends who would supply us regularly during the spring and summer. We also need vegetables and fruit.

More cupboards are needed at all our centres.

Nurse needs empty medicine bottles at her dispensary.

Health Talks to Mothers are held the first and third Fridays in the month at 3 p.m., at the Mothers' Arms.

GRATEFULLY ACKNOWLEDGED.

GENERAL FUND.—Lady Cook, £5; Mrs. Sanger, £5; Mrs. Scurr, £2; Mrs. Winifred Smith, £1 1s.; Miss O. Hockin, £1; the Misses Gliksten (monthly), £1; Mrs. Parr, 10s.; Miss Allen-Brown, 10s.; Mrs. Lancaster, 10s.; Miss Janet Mardon, 5s.; J. Flinton Harris, Esq., 3s.; — Phillips, Esq., 2s. 6d.; Miss M. A. Renthe (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Spill, 1s. 6d. COLLECTIONS.—Sale of jewellery, £3 11s.; Lachlan M. Smith, Esq. (special collection), £1 7s. 3d.; Sale of Work, £1; Chandos Hall, 15s. 0½d.; "At Home," 14s. 9d.; Mrs. Bouvier (Hampstead Heath), 13s. 2d.; City Branch I.L.P., 12s.; Miss Price, 8s. 8½d.; Mrs. Pullen (Canning Town), 4s. 10d.; Poplar Club members, 4s.; Mrs. Walker (Greengate), 2s. 9d.

"DREADNOUGHT" FUND.—Hon. Mrs. Rollo Russell, £2 2s.; Mrs. Hubbard Ellis, £2; Miss Janet Mardon, 5s.; Mrs. E. Mutis-Wilson, 1s. 6d.; Miss S. W. Newsome (monthly), 1s.; Miss E. K. Russell, 10d.

MILK AND GENERAL DISTRESS.—D. Eustace Langdale, Esq., £2; Mrs. Pearce Serocold, £1; the Misses Mann (monthly), £1; Dr. and Mrs. Parker, 10s. 6d.; Miss Ursula Cox, 10s.; Mrs. Usherwood, 6s.; Mrs. Heywood Bright (weekly), 5s.; Four Northern Friends (monthly), 5s.; the Misses Barrowman (monthly), 3s.; Miss Crabb (monthly), 3s. 6d.; West Adams, 3s.; Miss Barbara Reader, 3s.; P. Haslam, Esq., 2s. 6d., Miss Mitchell, 2s. 6d.; D. Wilkie, Esq. (monthly), 2s. 6d.; Miss Irene Clephane, 2s. 6d.; Miss E. Canning, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Ashbee, 2s. 6d.; Mrs. Parker, 1s.; Mr. Stiebel (weekly), 1s.; Mrs. Schurr (weekly), 1s.; Mrs. C. Cole, 1s.; — Rizlaff, Esq., 7d. COLLECTIONS.—Mrs. Walker, £1 16s. 7½d.; L.S.A. Toolroom, £1 10s. 7d.; Bow Sale of Clothes, £1 9s. 1½d.; Miss M. Orr, £1 3s.; Co-operative Women's Conference, £1 1s. 6d.; Bromley Sale of Clothes, 14s. 2d.; Mrs. Aiton, 12s.; Miss Lagsding and Miss Morley (Cubitt Town), 11s. 8½d.; Miss Price, 9s. 6d.; Mrs. Crabb, 8s. 4d.; Miss E. Lagsding and Mrs. Groves (Green's Yard), 7s. 3½d.; Winnie, Roy, and Cecil Selwyn, 5s.

NURSERY ROOF GARDEN.—Lady Rhondda, £1; Miss Selby, 10s.

INFANT WELFARE COMPETITION.—Messrs. Savory and Moore, 10s.; Mrs. Barrow Cadbury, 10s.; Nurse Clarke's Friend, 5s.; Mrs. Hubbard Ellis, 5s.; Councillor Marsh, 2s. GOODS.—Messrs. Allen and Hanbury, Messrs. Savory and Moore.

CLOTHES, ETC.—Miss Ruth Hancock, Mrs. W. Hill, Mrs. Pitkin, Mrs. Lummes.

EGGS.—Lady Margaret Sackville.

GROCERIES AND PILLOW CASES.—Hampstead W.S.P.U.

COT, ETC.—Mrs. Hubbard Ellis.

FLOWERS FOR THE SCHOOLS.—Mrs. Questier, Mrs. Gillett, Mr. Harvey, Miss Dora Walker, Dr. Walker's School, Mrs. Lamming, Miss Sinclair.

NATURE STUDY IN THE SCHOOLS

Dear Madam,—We all thank you very much for the flowers you so kindly sent us. They made the hall look so nice and gay. They were put on the desk, so that we could all see them when we went out to prayers. The daisies did look proud, looking over the edge of the green flower-vase into which they had been put. The tulips were very timid, just poking their heads over the brim of the vase. Thanking you once more.—Yours,

JULIA PEARSON.

Flowers and branches for the schools will be gratefully received at 400 Old Ford Road.

KINGSLEY HALL, BOW, E.
SUNDAY, JULY 9th. 8.15 p.m.
JOHN SCURR
on
"If a man die, shall he live again?"
OPEN DISCUSSION 9.30

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